**RICE**

Wait Three Weeks Past Flood Date to Apply Midseason Nitrogen

Many fields going to flood this week are only a week or two from greenring (panicle initiation), which is generally when we would start to schedule our midseason nitrogen application. According to Dr. Jarrod Hardke, U of A Extension Rice Specialist, research shows even in years when the preflood fertilizer and flood are delayed a couple of weeks past the recommended DD50 date, the best yield response is seen when the midseason nitrogen application is applied three weeks after preflood nitrogen went out. Hardke notes it takes three weeks for the preflood nitrogen to be taken up by the rice as long as you maintain a good flood. Looks like a lot of our late flooded rice will need a midseason nitrogen application the last week of June to first couple of days in July.***

Sheath Blight Scouting Begins

Joint movement will start for some of our earliest planted rice within the next few days. Scout your fields weekly for sheath blight (SB) when joint movement starts. According to Dr. Yeshi Wamishe, Arkansas Extension Plant Pathologist, some fields lose yield and profit potential from not receiving a fungicide application when SB threshold levels are reached. Other fields lose profit when automatic fungicide applications are made and SB levels are below threshold level.

CL151AR is a semidwarf variety rated susceptible to sheath blight. Fungicide treatment is recommended for it, and other varieties rated susceptible or very susceptible, when 35% positive scouting stops are recorded for a field, and there is a favorable forecast for continued disease development. For the taller, moderately susceptible varieties, like Roy J, 50% positive stops is used to trigger a fungicide application. A positive scouting stop is when you find sheath blight lesions present.

Most RiceTec hybrids are rated moderately susceptible to SB and not as likely to need a fungicide application, but should be regularly scouted. RT CL 745, rated susceptible, is one to keep an eye on.

Sheath blight is more likely on fields with a history of the disease, when high nitrogen rates are used, for thick stands, and during cloudy, damp conditions. The sheath blight organism can grow up the plant and across the canopy one inch every 24 hours under the right conditions, so scout fields twice a week if that is your situation. The goal is to protect the plant’s top three leaves, responsible for a large part of kernel fill.

Quadris, Stratego, Quilt Xcel, GEM, Sercadis, Elegia, and Artisan will generally provide from 2-3 weeks of protection from sheath blight, depending on product rate used. Use a high spray volume (at least 5gpa) to help with canopy penetration and foliage coverage for the best results. ***
**SOYBEANS**

**Pre-emergence Herbicides Necessary**

According to Dr. Bob Scott, Extension Weed Scientist for Arkansas, to control Glyphosate resistant (GR) pigweed, start clean at planting with either tillage and/or burndown herbicides.

Next, use a residual herbicide at planting for all types of soybean systems - Roundup Ready, Liberty Link, and conventional. Herbicide options are available from Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) class 2 (Scepter, etc.), class 3(yellow herbicides), class 5 (metribuzin, etc.), class 14 (PPOs like Valor and Authority), and class 15 (Dual, Zidua, etc.). Remember that none of the residual herbicides work very well unless activated by moisture (generally 1/2 inch or more needed) before weeds begin to sprout.

The last few years, the class 14 and 15 herbicides have been the most consistent in control of GR pigweed, generally providing up to 3 weeks of residual control. However, pigweeds in several fields last season were beginning to show signs of resistance to the PPO herbicides. Several fields also have known resistance to yellow and ALS herbicides. This year Dr. Scott and other weed scientists in the MidSouth recommend using a pre-emergence product that contains metribuzin plus one of the class 15 herbicides like Dual or Zidua.

Once your pre-emergence herbicides break, be timely with postemergence (POST) herbicide applications. Spraying early with WSSA class 14 herbicides or premixes –Flexstar, Blazer, Cobra (pigweeds need to be < 3 inches for these products to work) may still work if you don't have PPO resistant pigweeds. If those products are no longer working, you may get some control with a class 2 ALS herbicide like Classic. Recall that pigweeds in many fields already have resistance to ALS herbicides. Another approach would be to apply a second pre-emergence herbicide application to overlap herbicides for residual control and keep pigweeds from ever emerging before your soybeans reach full canopy. With this approach a rain or irrigation will be needed for herbicide activation.

For Liberty Link soybeans, your POST Liberty application will also need timed when weeds are small (< 3-4 inches). If you run even a day or two late, you may lose control of pigweeds that become big and drought stressed – this is why it is a must to use a residual herbicide at planting, to give a little more flexibility with time.

Think about chemistry when considering post-emergence herbicide efficacy. Herbicides like Flexstar (fomesafen), and Liberty (glufosinate) generally work as contact type products and have very little movement in the plant. Thorough spray coverage (15 gpa minimum spray volume by ground and 5 gpa with aerial applications) is a must along with small weeds (under 2-4 inches) that are actively growing. Make sure to use a spray tip (often listed on herbicide label) designed to give good coverage.

If pigweeds are too big for the PPOs or Liberty to completely burn back the seedling, a live stub with healthy roots will be left ready to form regrowth. If you have LL beans, a second shot of Liberty 10 days after the first shot generally works to control pigweeds a little bigger.***
Yield Response to Foliar Fungicides

Think carefully before pulling the trigger on a foliar fungicide application in corn. According to Kevin Lawson, U of A Corn Verification Coordinator, in 15 years of running the verification program, and on over 100 fields, he has only had to use a fungicide one time for control of Southern rust. Many fields in his program have cut over 250 bushels per acre without fungicides applied.

Lawson says that for corn grown in Arkansas, preventative fungicide applications are not likely to result in an economic return. However there are rare cases when a fungicide may help. They include years when conditions are favorable for Southern rust, for late planted corn, or for corn following corn in the same field.

Fungicide application should be made when corn is silking. Several fungicides are listed for control in the MP154, U of A Plant Disease Control Products guide.

Corn at Growth Stage for Peak Demand of Water

With current temperatures forecasted for the low 90’s, early April planted corn is currently using 1/4th an inch of water daily. Be sure to keep up with the plant’s irrigation needs as silking and ear development are soon to get under way. The next 4-5 weeks is the peak demand window for corn water use where high yields can be made or lost.

Give the U of A online irrigation scheduler program a try to project irrigation timing for your fields. Water use tables are also available with this program which list predicted water use of a crop based upon its emergence date and the expected maximum daily temperature. The online program and charts can be used for corn, cotton, grain sorghum, and soybeans. You can set up a free account at this website: http://irrigweb.uaex.edu/

Pipe Planner Program Updated & Help Available

Do you need help to set up a field or two using Delta Plastic’s computerized polypipe hole selection program, Pipe Planner? It has been updated this year with some new features including being able to recommend where to place chokes/barrels on a polypipe pad that has slope. We commend Delta Plastics for updating Pipe Planner this season and continuing to make it available free.

We appreciate Adam Eades, NRCS District Conservationist for Greene County, and his staff for partnering with the U of A Extension Service to promote grower adoption of irrigation practices, such as use of Pipe Planner, to improve water use efficiency. The Extension office and NRCS both have flow meters available to check well/riser flow rates, needed to develop plans listing polypipe hole sizes with the Pipe Planner program. Please give the NRCS or Extension office a call so we can set up a time to come measure flow on some of your fields that are hard to water out uniformly.

We want to remind you about Mike Hamilton, our local U of A Irrigation Specialist who has a joint NRCS appointment. Hamilton can help train consultants, Extension Agents, and NRCS staff about irrigation tools in this region to help farmers irrigate more efficiently. Josh Barnhill and Robert Counts were also recently hired to work with the local NRCS and are trained to help producers set up fields with Pipe Planner.
IPM Meetings/Field Days Planned

June 14th - Corn/Grain Sorghum IPM meeting - 9 am - GreenPoint AG - Schugtown

June 28th - Rice IPM meeting - 8 am - CPS - Stanford Cooperative

July 21st - Greene County Agriculture Field Day

August 3rd - Soybean IPM meeting - 8 am - Delta Cotton Cooperative - Marmaduke

August 10th - Arkansas Rice Expo - Stuttgart

These meetings are all in planning. More details on locations, speakers, and topics will be emailed/texted soon.

Warmest regards,

Allen Davis
County Extension Agent-
Staff Chair
ardavis@uaex.edu
870-236-5039

Dave Freeze
County Extension Agent-
Agriculture
dfreeze@uaex.edu
870-476-9891